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WASHINGTON,
March 2, 1844.

Official arrangements for the funeral solemnities and interment of the late *Secretary of State*, ABEL P. UPSHUR; the late *Secretary of the Navy*, THOMAS W. GILMER; the late *Captain* BEVERLY KENNON, U. S. Navy, Chief of Bureau; the late VIRGIL MAXCY, of Maryland, late Chargé d'Affaires to Belgium; and of the late *Hon.* DAVID GARDINER of New York.—

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

I have to perform the melancholy duty of announcing to the two Houses of Congress the death of the Hon. ABEL P. UPSHUR, late Secretary of State, and the Hon. THOMAS W. GILMER, late Secretary of the Navy.

This most lamentable occurrence transpired on board the United States ship-of-war, the Princeton, on yesterday, at about half after four o'clock in the evening, and proceeded from the explosion of one of the large guns of that ship.

The loss which the Government and the country have sustained by this deplorable event, is heightened by the death, at the same time, and by the same cause, of several distinguished persons and valuable citizens.

I shall be permitted to express my great grief at an occurrence which has thus so suddenly stricken from my side two gentlemen, upon whose advice I so confidently relied in the discharge of my arduous task of administering the office of the Executive Department, and whose services at this interesting period were of such vast importance.

In some relief of the public sorrow which must necessarily accompany this most painful event, it affords me much satisfaction to say that it was produced by no carelessness or inattention on the part of the officers and crew of the Princeton; but must be set down as one of those casualties which, to a greater or less degree, attend upon every service, and which are invariably incident to the temporal affairs of mankind. I will also add, that it in no measure detracts, in my estimation, from the value of the improvements contemplated in the construction of the Princeton, or from the merits of her brave and distinguished commander and projector.

JOHN TYLER.

Washington, Feb. 29th, 1844.

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Mr. Rives rose and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President: The general feeling of the Senate has, I am sure, already anticipated me in what I have risen to suggest. The awful calamity communicated to us in the message of the President just read, and which has made of yesterday, with all its unearthly brightness, one of the darkest and most inauspicious days in our national calendar, is but too well known to the Senate, in all its dreadful details and heart-rending results. Surely, Mr. President, never, in the mysterious ordinances of God, has a day on earth been marked in its progress by such startling and astounding contrasts—opening and advancing with hilarity and joy, mutual congratulation and patriotic pride, and closing in scenes of death and disaster, of lamentation and unutterable woe. It was my sad fortune, Mr. President, to be an eye-witness of these never-to-be-forgotten events. If I had language to describe them, the power of speech would fail me.

I have risen, in the midst of the universal sadness and dejection of heart which prevail around me, and under the overpowering weight of my own feelings, to suggest the propriety of suspending our ordinary labors and pursuits, in the presence and under the chastisement of this awful visitation of Providence. It has fallen to the lot of my own State to be the chief mourner on this melancholy occasion. Two of her distinguished citizens, filling high places in the civil government of the country, have been cut down in the midst of their days and their usefulness; and another of her sons—a gallant officer of the Navy—has been destined to all, by disastrous accident, on a deck which, under other circumstances, he might have illustrated by his valor.

But, in so overwhelming a calamity, which stands almost without a parallel in the records of human misfortune, all bear their equal and sympathizing share. Surrounded, as we are, on every hand, by the desolate wailing of the widow, and the helpless cry of the orphan, none of us can be in a state of mind to discharge, with intelligence and composure, the duties which belong to us here.

Let us, then, Mr. President, bowing in all humility of spirit beneath this stroke of an All-wise and Mysterious Providence, discard from our minds, for a season, the cares and excitements of our daily duties in this hall. Let us lay to heart the monitory lesson so impressively read to us in the events of yesterday, that "In the midst of life we are in death." With this lesson engraven upon our hearts, let us keep constantly in

view the eternal, as well as temporal, responsibilities under which all the duties of both public and private life are to be performed. Let the deep sense of common calamity and mutual affliction unite us more closely by the ties of brotherhood and affection. Let us "put away from us all bitterness and wrath and evil-speaking;" and when we come together again, under these chastening influences, we shall all feel, I trust, how much better patriots we are, for being better Christians.

Mr. R. concluded by submitting the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate is impressed with a profound sense of the awful calamity which yesterday occurred on board of the Steamer Princeton, by the explosion of a gun, involving the loss of many valuable lives, and among them of the Secretary of State and Secretary of the Navy.

Resolved, That the Senate will attend, in a body, the obsequies of the deceased members of the Cabinet, and that a committee of five be appointed to make arrangements with such committee as may be appointed on the part of the House of Representatives, for attending the funeral.

Resolved, That, in consideration of this afflictive dispensation, the Senate do now adjourn to Monday next.

Resolved, That the Senate will go into mourning by wearing crape on the left arm for thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the President of the United States.

The resolutions having been read, a message was received from the House of Representatives, by the hands of Mr. McNulty, their Clerk, announcing the action of that body touching this awful calamity. The message was read and concurred in.

The resolutions submitted by Mr. Rives were unanimously agreed to, and

The following Senators were appointed a committee of arrangements on the part of the Senate, to act in conjunction with the committee on the part of the House of Representatives, viz: Mr. Rives, Mr. Archer, Mr. King, Mr. Woodbury, and Mr. Bayard.

The following resolutions were submitted to the House of Representatives by Mr. Hopkins, and adopted:

Resolved, That this House has heard with deep sorrow of the dreadful catastrophe which occurred yesterday on board the United States ship-of-war Princeton, when many valuable lives were lost, and by which, amongst others, the Hon. Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of State, and the Hon. Thomas W. Gilmer, Secretary of the Navy, met a sudden and awful death.

Resolved, That this House will manifest its respect for the memory of the late distinguished Secretaries of State and of the Navy, and its sympathy for their bereaved families, by attending their funeral in a body.

Resolved, As a further mark of respect to the deceased, and to manifest our sense of this most melancholy and afflicting dispensation of Providence, that this House will transact no legislative business until after the funeral obsequies of the deceased shall have been performed.

Resolved, That the members of this House will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed in conjunction with the committee which may be appointed by the Senate, to make arrangements for the funeral.

Resolved, That this House adjourn until Monday next.

The resolutions were agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed the committee on the part of the House, viz: Mr. Hopkins, of Virginia; Mr. C. J. Ingersoll, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Cave Johnson, of Tennessee; Mr. J. Q. Adams, of Massachusetts; and Mr. D. P. Barnard, of New York.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
February 29, 1844.

GENERAL ORDERS:

In the deepest grief the President of the United States has instructed the undersigned to announce to the Army that, from the accidental explosion of a gun yesterday, on board the United States steam ship Princeton, the country and its government lost, at the same moment, the Secretary of State, the Honorable A. P. Upshur, and the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable T. W. Gilmer.

Called but a few days since to preside over the administration of the War Department, it is peculiarly painful to the undersigned that his first official communication to the Army, should be the announcement of a calamity depriving the country of the public services of two of our most accomplished statesmen and popular and deeply esteemed fellow citizens. Their virtues, talents, and patriotic services will ever be retained in the grateful recollection of their countrymen, and perpetuated upon the pages of the history of our common country.

Deep as may be the gloom which spreads over the community, it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of events to add another shade to it by blending in this melancholy catastrophe the deaths of an eminent citizen, Virgil Maxcy, Esq., lately Chargé d'Affaires to Belgium, a gallant and meritorious officer of the Navy, a chief of a Bureau, Captain B. Kennon,

and a private citizen of New York, of high and estimable character, besides others, citizens and sailors, either killed or wounded.

As appropriate honors to the memory of these distinguished Secretaries, half-hour guns will be fired at every military post, furnished with the proper ordnance, the day after the receipt of this order, from sunrise to sunset; the national flag will be displayed at half-staff, during the same time; and all officers of the Army will wear, for three months, the customary badge of mourning.

WM. WILKINS,
Secretary of War.

GENERAL ORDER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *Feb.* 29, 1844.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late Hon. THOMAS W. GILMER, Secretary of the Navy, whose career, at his entrance upon the duties of his office, which would have been nobly mainted by that ability and vigor, of which his whole previous life had been the guarantee, the flags of all vessels in commission, at Navy Yards, and Stations, are to be hoisted at half-mast on the day after the receipt of this order; minute guns, to the number of seventeen, are to be fired between sunrise and sunset, and crape is to be worn on the left arm and upon the sword for the space of three months.

L. WARRINGTON,
Secretary of the Navy, ad interim.

BY COMMAND OF THE PRESIDENT.

GENERAL ORDER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
February 29, 1844.

On the day after the funeral honors have been paid to the late able and lamented Secretary of the Navy, minute guns, to the number of thirteen, will be fired between sunrise and sunset; mourning for the space of thirty days will be worn on the left arm, and the flags of the vessels in commission, at the Navy Yards, and Stations, will be hoisted at half-mast, as a token of respect to the memory of the late Captain BEVERLY KENNON,

Chief of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment, and Repair, who had won for himself the highest rank of the service, by the faithful and diligent discharge of his duty, and by his acknowledged gallantry and uniformly officer-like deportment.

L. WARRINGTON,
Secretary of the Navy, ad interim.

By command of the President.

Washington, *March* 1, 1844.

In pursuance of authority vested in us by the President of the United States and the Committees appointed on behalf of Congress, we have determined upon the following official arrangements for the funeral solemnities of Abel P. Upshur, late Secretary of State; Thomas W. Gilmer, late Secretary of the Navy; Captain Beverly Kennon, United States Navy, late Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Equipment of the Navy; Virgil Maxcy, of Maryland, late Chargé d'Affaires of the United States to Belgium; and of the Hon. David Gardiner, late of New York.

W. BRANFORD SHUBRICK,
WM. D. MERRICK,
ROGER JONES,
JOHN H. EATON,
RICHARD S. COXE,
J. H. AULICK,
SELAH B. STRONG,
JOHN T. McLAUGHLIN.

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Funeral Escort in Column of March.

Volunteer Troops.

Batallion of United States Marines.

Squadron of Cavalry.

Troop of United States Light Artillery.

Commander of the Escort and Staff.

Dismounted Officers of Volunteers, Marine Corps, Navy and Army, in the order named.

Mounted Officers of Volunteers, Marine Corps, Navy and Army, in the order named.

Major General Walter Jones, commanding the Militia, and Staff.

Major General Scott, commanding the Army, and Staff.

CIVIC PROCESSION.

The Mayors of Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria.

Clergy and Medical Faculty of the District of Columbia and elsewhere.

Committees on the part of Congress and the Executive.

Pall-Bearers—*to precede the hearse.*

PALL-BEARERS.	Hearse of the late SECRETARY OF STATE.	PALL-BEARERS.
The Hon. Mr. Archer, of Virginia, and the Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.		The Hon. C. J. Ingersoll of Pa., and the Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Family and Relatives of the late Hon. Mr. UPSHUR.

	Hearse of the late SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.	
The Hon. Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, and Members of the Committee on Naval Affairs of the Senate.		The Hon. Mr. Parmenter, of Mass., and Members of the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Family and Relatives of the late Hon. Mr. GILMER.

	Hearse of CAPTAIN KENNON, late Chief of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment and Repair of the Navy.	
Capt. Smoot, U. S. N., Com. Morgan, " Com. Bolton, " Col. Totten, U. S. A. Gen. Worth, " Gen. Gibson, "		Capt. Aulick, U. S. N. Com. Shubrick, " Com. Crane, " Col. Bomford, U. S. A. Gen. Towson, " Gen. Jesup, "

Family and Relatives of the late Captain KENNON.

	Hearse of Mr. MAXCY, late Chargé to Belgium.	
Hon. Mr. Merrick, Md. Hon. Mr. Causin, Md. Hon. Mr. Spence, Md. G. C. Washington, Geogetown. M. St. C. Clarke, Washington. J. W. McCullough, "		Hon. Mr. Pearce, Md. Hon. Mr. Preston, Md. Hon. Mr. Kennedy, Md. Hon. Mr. Carter, Georgetown J. H. Bradley, Washington. Gen. Weightman, "

Family and Relatives of the late Hon. Mr. MAXCY.

PALL-BEARERS.	Hearse of the Hon. DAVID GARDINER, late of New York.	PALL-BEARERS.
Hon. Mr. Wright, New York.		Hon. Mr. Carroll, New York.
Hon. Mr. Strong, "		Hon. Mr. Davis, "
Hon. Mr. Moseley, "		Hon. Mr. Hunt, "
Hon. Mr. Fish, "		Hon. Mr. Barnard, "
Hon. Mr. Leonard, "		Col. Murray, "
P. R. Fendall, Washington.		Darius Clagett, Washingt'n.

Family and Relatives of the late Hon. Mr. GARDINER.

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The PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES and Cabinet Ministers.

Ex-Presidents of the United States.

The President of the Senate and Secretary.

Senators and officers of the Senate.

The Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Members and Officers of the House of Representatives.

The Chief Justice and Associate Justices and Officers of the Supreme Court.

Foreign Ministers and Suites.

Governors of States and Territories and Members of State Legislatures.

Judges of the Circuit and Criminal Courts of the District of Columbia, with the Members of the Bar and Officers of the several Courts.

The Judges of the several States.

The Comptrollers of the Treasury, Auditors, Treasurer, Register, Solicitor, Commissioners of Land Office, of Pensions, Indian Affairs, Patents, and Public Buildings.

The Clerks, &c., of the several Departments, preceeded by their respective Chief Clerks.

And all other Civil officers of the Government.

Corporate Authorities of Washington.

Corporate Authorities of Georgetown.

Corporate Authorities of Alexandria.

Such Societies and Fraternities as may wish to join the Procession to report to the Marshal of the District, who will assign their respective positions.

Citizens and Strangers.

The troops designated to form the escort, will assemble in the avenue, north of the President's House, and form line precisely at 10 o'clock,

A. M., *on Saturday the 2d instant*, with its right (Capt. Ringgold's troop of Light Artillery) resting opposite the western gate.

The procession will move precisely at 11 o'clock, A. M., when minute guns will be fired by detachments of Artillery, stationed near St-John's Church and the City Hall, by the Columbian Artillery at the Capitol, and by the Commandant of the Washington Navy Yard. At the same hour the bells of the several Churches in Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria will be tolled.

The Adjutant General of the Army and the General Commandant of the United States Marine Corps are charged with the military arrangements of the day, to be aided by the Assistant Adjutants General on duty at the Headquarters of the Army and the Staff of the Marine Corps.

The United States Marshal of the District of Columbia, aided by such assistants as he may appoint, is charged with the direction of the CIVIC PROCESSION.

U. S. SHIP PRINCETON,
POTOMAC RIVER, OFF ALEXANDRIA.
Wednesday evening, Feb. 28, 1844.

Minutes of the proceedings of the committee designated by the President to remain with, and to make the preliminary arrangements for the interment of the bodies of those killed by the bursting of the cannon on board the Princeton, February 28, 1844.

The committee consisting of

Com. W. B. Shubrick, U. S. N.,	Lieut. J. T. McLaughlin, U. S. N.,
Gen. Roger Jones, U. S. Army,	Col. Murray, of New York,
Gen. Hardin, House of Reps.,	Mr R. S. Coxe, of Washington,
Hon. M. Brown, House of Reps.,	Mr. Reuben M. Whitney, of Pa.,
Captain Aulick, U. S. Navy,	Gen. J. H. Eaton, of Washington,
Captain Ramsay, U. S. Navy,	Dr. Thomas, of Washington,
Captain Powell, U. S. Navy,	

met in the cabin of the Princeton, and organized by appointing Com. Shubrick, Chairman, and Lieut. McLaughlin, Secretary; when, upon motion,

A sub-committee, consisting of Gen. Jones, Capt. Aulick, the Hon. Mr. Brown, and Mr. Richard S. Coxe, were deputed to visit Alexandria, to make the necessary arrangements with an undertaker to prepare the bodies for interment.

The sub-committee having visited Alexandria, and returned on board, reported that coffins, &c., would be furnished on the following morning, at 9 A. M.

It was then, on motion,

Resolved, That a sub-committee be appointed by the Chair, to wait on the families of the deceased, for the purpose of consulting their wishes with regard to the disposition of the bodies, after their arrival in the city; with instructions to report to the committee on the following morning at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Whereupon the Chair designated the following gentlemen to compose the sub-committee:

Gen. Jones, Capt. Powell, Gen. Eaton, and Mr. R. S. Coxe.

The committee then adjourned until 11, A. M., Thursday, February 29, 1844.

Minutes of the proceedings of the Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States, of the delegations of New York and Maryland, and the Committee designated by the President to make the preliminary arrangements for the interment of the persons killed by the bursting of the cannon on board the Princeton, on the 28th February, 1844.

The Committees met in the President's Mansion, February 29th, and organized in Committee of the Whole by appointing the Hon. Mr. Rives to the Chair, and Lieut. McLaughlin, Secretary.

Whereupon, on motion it was *Resolved*,

1st. That a committee of seven be appointed by the Chair, for the purpose of arranging the programme of the procession.

2d. That the funeral procession proceed directly from the President's Mansion to the Congressional burying ground, at eleven o'clock, A. M., on Saturday, March 2d.

3d. That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair, for the purpose of making special arrangements for the religious ceremonies.

4th. That the Marshal of the District be requested to co-operate on the occasion of the procession, with the committee of seven, and to appoint such number of assistants as they may deem necessary.

5th. That the Marshal of the District be further requested to take charge of the remains of the deceased now in the President's Mansion, until the organization of the procession.

6th. That citizens and volunteer soldiery of the District of Columbia, and the neighboring cities, be requested to participate in the solemnities of the occasion.

7th. That the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting, be added to the committee of seven to determine upon the programme of the proceedings.

The following Committees were then named from the Chair:

The Committee of seven ordered by the 1st Resolution,

Mr. R. S. Coxe, Hon. Selah B. Strong, Capt. Aulick,
Gen. R. Jones, Com. Shubrick, Gen. J. H. Eaton.
Hon. Mr. Merrick,

The Committee of three ordered by the 3d Resolution,

Hon. Mr. Barnard, Mr. R. S. Coxe, and Col. Murray of N. Y.

When it was *Resolved*, That the proceedings be signed by the Chairman and Secretary,—and the meeting then adjourned.

W. C. RIVES,
Chairman.

JOHN T. McLAUGHLIN,
Secretary.

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